



City of Parks, Trees and Trails

CITY OF RUSHFORD

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RECEIVED
OCT 15 2003

SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON
10901 RED CIRCLE DR. #200
MTKA., MN 55343

October 9, 2003

Ms. Sarah D. Hoffmann
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Proposed Rushford Power Plant
T104N, R8W, Section 14, Fillmore County
NHNRP Contact # ERDB 20040181

Dear Ms. Hoffmann:

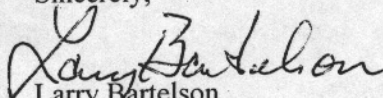
Thank you for the research performed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the rare plant and animal species, or other significant natural features that may be affected by the proposed power plant. We share the DNR's concerns about development in and near the bluff lands of our community.

We understand that the DNR would prefer an alternative location for the proposed plant. Rushford's bluff land resource is very important to the community. Our bluffs help define who we are and our place in the natural world. We have investigated five possible sites for the plant and have selected the proposed site as it causes the least impact on the environmental and human resources associated with the project.

Rushford's zoning ordinance has an entire chapter on bluff protection. The chapter includes significant detail on development restrictions in and around bluff areas. Issues such as site disturbance, erosion control, structures, impervious surfacing, setbacks, grading, filling and replanting are all addressed. In establishing the proposed power plant, we fully intend to follow the bluff protection guidelines set forth in the City's zoning ordinance. Activities at the proposed site will generally be confined to an area of less than one acre of the 175⁺ acres of Magelssen bluff. Any disturbed areas will be replanted, and we will certainly take the opportunity to contact Ann Pierce, the DNR's regional plant ecologist, for assistance with replanting the site.

Again, thank you for the research and your comments on our proposed plant site.

Sincerely,


Larry Bartelson
City Administrator

Cc: Associated Consultants Engineers
Rushford Electric Utility Commission